

Case 3236***Zeriassa* Pocock, 1897 (September) (Arachnida, Solifugae): proposed precedence over *Canentis* Pavesi, 1897 (August)**

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Abstract. The purpose of this application, under Articles 23.9.3 and 81.2.3 of the Code, is to conserve the generic name *Zeriassa* Pocock, 1897 for a group of sun spiders (family SOLPUGIDAE) by giving it precedence over the unused older name *Canentis* Pavesi, 1897 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.

Keywords. Nomenclature; taxonomy; Arachnida: SOLPUGIDAE; *Zeriassa*; *Canentis*; *Zeriassa bicolor*; *Zeriassa ruspolii*; sun spiders; Africa.

1. In September 1897, Pocock (1897b, p. 252) proposed the generic name *Zeriassa* for a species of sun spider *Zeria bicolor* Pocock, 1897a (p. 392) (family SOLPUGIDAE) that had been collected from an unspecified locality in Somalia. The type species of *Zeriassa* is *Zeria bicolor* Pocock, 1897a by original designation (Pocock, 1897b, p. 255).

2. At virtually the same time, Pavesi (12 August 1897, p. 158) named the genus *Canentis* for the new nominal species *C. ruspolii* Pavesi, 1897 (p. 159) from Somalia. The holotype (a female specimen) is lodged in the Museo Civico di Storia Naturale di Genova and was examined by Simonetta & Della Cave, who (1968) redescribed the species based upon the holotype and several other specimens from Somalia and Ethiopia. *C. ruspolii* Pavesi, 1897 is the type species of *Canentis* by original designation and monotypy.

3. Both Pocock (1897b) and Pavesi (1897) noted the distinctive setal morphology of the eye tubercle that is diagnostic of these species of sun spiders. This feature enabled Kraepelin (1901, p. 81) to recognize the two generic names as synonyms, and he used the name *Zeriassa* as the valid name.

4. Despite Kraepelin's (1901) use of *Zeriassa*, it is clear that *Canentis* has strict priority over *Zeriassa*, as it was published a month prior to *Zeriassa*. However, *Canentis* has not been used as a valid name since Pavesi first established it over a hundred years ago, whereas *Zeriassa* is currently in use for 17 species (including *Z. ruspolii*) found in southern and eastern Africa (e.g. Roewer, 1933; Simonetta & Della Cave, 1968; Wharton, 1981). The use of the name *Canentis* in place of *Zeriassa* would entail considerable confusion and would be contrary to the spirit of the Code (see Article 23.9.3). Although the name *Canentis* has not been used for over a hundred years (see Article 23.9.1.1), the name *Zeriassa* does not meet the criteria of Article 23.9.1.2 for 'automatic' conservation because so few authors have studied this group of animals. I propose that *Zeriassa* is given precedence (see Article 81.2.3) over

Canentis whenever these names are considered to be synonyms. However if, in the light of future research, *Zeriassa* is found not to be congeneric with *Canentis* both names are still available to denote the two taxa.

5. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power to give the name *Zeriassa* Pocock, 1897 precedence over the name *Canentis* Pavesi, 1897, whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *Zeriassa* Pocock, 1897 (gender: feminine), type species by original designation *Zeria bicolor* Pocock, 1897, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the name *Canentis* Pavesi, 1897 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
 - (b) *Canentis* Pavesi, 1897 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation and monotypy *C. ruspolii* Pavesi, 1897, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *Zeriassa* Pocock, 1897 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
 - (a) *bicolor* Pocock, 1897, as published in the binomen *Zeria bicolor* (specific name of the type species of *Zeriassa* Pocock, 1897);
 - (b) *ruspolii* Pavesi, 1897, as published in the binomen *Canentis ruspolii* (specific name of the type species of *Canentis* Pavesi, 1897).

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